

## Continuation Grant Awards

Tab 7

### Background:

Executive Summaries for six (6) current grant projects that are eligible for continuation funding are enclosed for consideration by the Committee. Grants monitoring strategies are noted under staff recommendations which follow the grants risk assessment report.

- A. **Easter Seals of Central Texas** – Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training
- B. **Paso del Norte Children’s Development Center** – Leadership Development and Advocacy Skills Training
- C. **Light and Salt** — Culturally Appropriate Family Supports
- D. **Texas Advocates** — Grassroots Community Organizing
- E. **EveryChild, Inc** — Public Policy Fellow
- Volar Center for Independent Living** — Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

At the November meeting, staff expect to bring two (2) projects to be considered for continuation funding.

- **Community Healthcore** – Building Community Capacity through Collaboration
- **Reaching Families Advocacy and Support Group** – Culturally Appropriate Family Supports

### Executive Committee — Agenda Item 10.

#### Expected Action:

The Executive Committee will consider this information and make final decisions on the project proposals.

### Council — Agenda Item 12. A.

#### Expected Action:

The Council will receive a report on the Executive Committee decisions.

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities  
Executive Committee  
Review of Proposed Activities and Budget**

**ITEM: A**

**Date:** 08/2/2017

**Grantee:** Easter Seals of Central Texas

**Year:** 2 of 5

**Project Title:** Leadership Development and Advocacy Training

**Project Location:** Fort Worth, College Station, Austin, McAllen, Houston,  
and Rio Grande Valley

**Website:** None

**TCDD RFP Intent**

The Leadership Development and Advocacy Training request for proposal is for up to four projects to provide skills training using approved curriculum. Project staff will select curriculum and determine how training will be provided. Training must include:

1. History and philosophy of the disability rights movement;
2. Principles of self-determination;
3. Strategies to find and access necessary services and supports;
4. Activities to develop self-advocacy skills; and
5. Activities to promote interaction between participants and peer support.

**Authorized Funding:** TCDD has approved up to \$75,000 for up to five years.

**Expected Results:**

At least 100 people each year, on average, will be trained and:

1. At least 80% of trainees demonstrate perceived improvement in their ability to advocate for themselves and others; and
2. At least 10% of trainees have continued involvement in leadership roles or public advocacy.

**Project Goals and Objectives for Year 1**

**Goal:** Easter Seals Central Texas (ESCT) will provide an inclusive statewide advocacy and leadership training program focused on developing skills for individuals with developmental disabilities to become self-advocates involved in advocating for the issues that are important to them. ESCT will work with other TX Easter Seals affiliates, including affiliates representing rural areas, to make sure that these trainings are offered to a diverse population.

**Objectives:**

1. Provide advocacy and leadership skills training to people with developmental disabilities across the state of Texas;
2. Impact how the public perceives individuals with developmental disabilities; and
3. Positively impact current state policies that affect people with developmental disabilities and their families.

**Accomplishments per Goal:** ESCT has been actively monitoring legislative changes related to employment, housing, and Medicaid rate cuts. Advocates receive updates via social media, e-mail, newsletters, and participants so they can connect with other organizations that address more focused issues. ESCT collaborates with advocates to identify their legislators or other legislators on committees relevant to their priority issue, catalog contact information, draft narratives, and practice effectively communicating. ESCT collects information from advocates through e-mail, social media, and phone calls to track participation in advocacy activities. During the first year, ESCT staff and volunteers traveled to Easter Seals affiliate locations and conducted half day (4 hour) trainings for people in their communities. To date, the project has:

1. Educated 9 policymakers about issues related to Council Initiatives;
  2. Reached 101 members of the general public regarding Council public education, awareness and media initiatives;
  3. Created/Improved 5 formal/informal community supports programs/policies;
  4. Trained 154 people in systems advocacy about formal/informal community supports, leadership, self-advocacy and self-determination; and
  5. Trained 61 parents or guardians trained regarding their child's educational rights.
- Finally, ESCT has been documenting program progress and experiences of advocates through a 3-part video project.

**Project Goals and Objectives for Year 2**

**Goal:** Same as above. For the next program year, ESCT will continue to hold free trainings at affiliate locations (Ft. Worth, College Station, Austin, McAllen, Houston), but will add a second day of training in the Rio Grande Valley in Harlingen to increase participation of Spanish-speaking advocates by 20%.

**Objectives:**

1. Provide advocacy and leadership skills training to people with developmental disabilities across the state of Texas;
2. Impact how the public perceives individuals with developmental disabilities; and
3. Positively impact current state policies that affect people with developmental disabilities and their families.

## Council Considerations

**Grant Management Considerations:** No concerns.

**Staff Recommendation:** TCDD staff recommends continued funding for this project.

### Continuation Budget Detail Summary

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Expended Total Amounts
<b>Expended Year 1</b> (5 months) (Consultant: \$23,703)	\$64,394/\$13,753	\$20,643/\$7,090	\$85,037/\$20,843

### Amounts Requested for Year Two Budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
<b>1. Personnel Services</b>	\$51,297	\$14,883	\$66,180
<b>2. Travel</b>	\$4,245	\$0	\$4,245
<b>3. Purchased Services</b> (\$7,575 consultants)	\$9,692	\$19,879	\$29,571
<b>4. Property/Materials</b>	\$0	\$89	\$89
<b>5. Rental/Leasing</b>	\$0	\$8,028	\$8,028
<b>6. Utilities</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>7. Other (Indirect Costs)</b>	\$9,766	\$0	\$9,766
<b>Budget period totals</b>	\$75,000	\$42,879	\$117,879

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities  
Executive Committee  
Review of Proposed Activities and Budget**

**ITEM: B**

**Date:** 08/2/2017

**Grantee:** Paso del Norte Children's Development Center

**Year:** 2 of 5

**Project Title:** Leadership Development and Advocacy Training

**Project Location:** El Paso, TX

**Website:** pdnchildrens.org

**TCDD RFP Intent**

The intent of the Leadership Development and Advocacy Training request for proposal is for up to four projects to provide leadership development and advocacy skills training using approved curriculum. Project staff will select curriculum and determine how training will be provided. Training must include:

1. History and philosophy of the disability rights movement;
2. Principles of self-determination;
3. Strategies to find and access necessary services and supports;
4. Activities to develop self-advocacy skills; and
5. Activities to promote interaction between participants and peer support.

**Authorized Funding:** TCDD has approved up to \$75,000 for up to five years.

**Expected Results:**

At least 100 people each year, on average, will be trained and it will be documented that:

1. At least 80% of trainees demonstrate perceived improvement in their ability to advocate for themselves and others; and
2. At least 10% of trainees have continued involvement in leadership roles or public advocacy.

**Project Goals and Objectives for Year 1**

**Goal:** Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center (PDNCDC) and Volar Center for Independent Living (Volar), will collaborate to implement a culturally appropriate leadership development and advocacy training program to a minimum of 100 El Pasoans who have developmental disabilities, their family members and allies so that they can become strong leaders and advocates. Two main program elements include:

1. Conduct the El Paso Leadership and Advocacy Institute based on the well-known Partners in Policymaking model from the Minnesota's Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities; and
2. Upon completion of the training, implement a plan to ensure that a minimum of 10% of participants will engage in leadership roles and public advocacy opportunities.

**Objectives:**

1. Hire and train two part-time coordinators; prepare curriculum materials; and, secure subject-matter speakers;
2. Implement the El Paso County Leadership and Advocacy Institute;
3. Prepare and implement plan to match 10 identified leaders with local and statewide leadership and advocacy opportunities; and
4. Organize Project Advisory Committee (PAC), conduct regular meetings, and ensure that they discuss issues related to sustaining the Institute including securing funds to match TCDD funding.

**Accomplishments per Goal:**

1. Both positions have been filled and curriculum materials are ready and being revised to meet participant needs;
2. The first institute was offered in February and March with a total of 19 participants trained in formal and informal community supports as well as systems advocacy, health and employment; the second institute was offered in April and completed in May with 10 participants. The third started June 13 and will end June 22nd. The fourth will be July 18-27th and the fifth August 22-31st.
3. The project coordinator is compiling a list of leaders and will make appointments with each. One participant is already serving on an advisory board and other potential advocates will be given opportunities. A total of 9 legislators were presented with the information about this project and its goals; and
4. The project has planned and conducted PAC meetings at least once quarterly with a quorum to discuss issues related to the Institute.

**Project Goals and Objectives for Year 2**

**Goal:** Approximately 100 El Pasoans who have developmental disabilities, their family members and allies will participate in 5 institutes; each institute will be comprised of 20 individuals. Each institute contains 4 sessions of 4 hours each for a total of 16 hours of training. Institutes will be implemented one after the other within a 9-month period.

**Objectives:**

1. Continue to implement the El Paso Leadership and Advocacy Institute;
2. Prepare and implement plan to match 10 identified leaders with local and statewide leadership and advocacy opportunities;
3. Organize PAC, conduct regular meetings, and ensure that they discuss issues related to sustaining the Institute including securing funds to match TCDD funding for years 3-5; and
4. 80% of class graduates will report an increase in their ability to advocate for themselves and others.

**Council Considerations**

**Grant Management Considerations:** No concerns.

**Staff Recommendation:** TCDD staff recommends continued funding for this project.

**Continuation Budget Detail Summary**

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Expended Total Amounts
<b>Expended Year 1</b> (9 months) (Consultant: \$45,985)	\$75,000/\$34,122	\$9,859/\$6,854	\$84,859/\$40,976

**Amounts Requested for Year Two Budget**

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
<b>1. Personnel Services</b>	\$21,258	\$4,137	\$25,395
<b>2. Travel</b>	\$500	\$0	\$500
<b>3. Purchased Services</b> (\$43,530 consultants)	\$43,830	\$4,621	\$48,451
<b>4. Property/Materials</b>	\$900	\$0	\$900
<b>5. Rental/Leasing</b>	\$1,012	\$0	\$1,012
<b>6. Utilities</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>7. Other (Indirect Costs)</b>	\$7,500	\$0	\$7,500
<b>Budget period totals</b>	\$75,000	\$8,758	\$83,758

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities**  
**Executive Committee**  
**Review of Proposed Activities and Budget**

**ITEM: C**

**Date:** 8/2/17

**Grantee:** Light and Salt Association

**Year:** 3 of 4

**Project Title:** Project SMILE

**Project Location:** Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Brazoria, Galveston

**Website:** [www.light-salt.org](http://www.light-salt.org)

**TCDD RFP Intent**

The project intent is to help selected organization(s) build on the work done during the previous project from TCDD to help individuals with developmental disabilities and their families receive culturally appropriate community-based services and supports.

**Authorized Funding:** TCDD has approved up to \$75,000 for up to 4 years.

**Expected Results:** At least one conference or training and other activities to support at least 100 families or individuals to get their needs from service providers met; support at least 3 leaders from the individuals being trained and provide information to TCDD to change programs or policies to promote culturally appropriate services and supports; and, grow the organization.

**Project Goals and Objectives for Year 2**

**Goal:** To improve the quality of life among Asian Americans (AA) affected by developmental disabilities and to increase public awareness about developmental disabilities.

**Accomplishments per Goal:** Outreach strategies continue to be implemented to increase public awareness of developmental disabilities through television and radio programs, seminars, newsletters and musical performances; 616 Project SMILE classes were held in which 21 participants with developmental disabilities attended; there were 49 Saturday classes held in which a total of 28 students participated; 23 monthly support groups were held throughout the Houston area with a total of 359 participants, four online support group meetings with 104 individuals participating; 77 units of one-to-one counseling sessions and individual assistance to parents with children with developmental disabilities; twenty-two parents with DD impacted children were recruited and received advocacy training from Families for Effective Autism Treatment (FEAT); and, seven representatives from LSA including the executive director, project director, three staff members,



one parent and one volunteer went to the Texas Capitol and met with several staff members of legislators to advocate for Project SMILE.

### **Project Goals and Objectives for Year 3**

**Goal:** Same as above.

**Objectives:** Increase public awareness of DD; improve the life of at least 100 individuals with DD by providing them culturally and linguistically appropriate community-based services and supports; empower at least 100 Asian American family members with better knowledge, resources, and skills to raise children DD-impacted children; and, recruit and train at least three individuals with DD or their family members to become advocates for individuals with DD.

### **Council Considerations**

**Grant Management Considerations:** No concerns; moderate risk monitoring (award within awards).

**Staff Recommendation:** TCDD staff recommends the Council to consider continued funding.

### **Continuation Budget Detail Summary**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Federal Amount Expended</b>	<b>Match Amount Expended</b>	<b>Expended Total Amounts</b>
<b>Expended Year 2</b> (7 months) (Consultants: \$12,270)	\$75,000/\$46,249	\$26,660/\$18,830	\$101,660/\$65,079

### **Amounts Requested for Year Two Budget**

<b>Expense Item</b>	<b>Federal Amount Requested</b>	<b>Match Amount Requested</b>	<b>Total Amount Requested</b>
<b>1. Personnel Services</b>	\$54,685	\$14,440	\$69,085
<b>2. Travel</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>3. Purchased Services</b> (Consultants: \$11,300)	\$11,500	\$14,300	\$25,800
<b>4. Property/Materials</b>	\$815	\$0	\$815
<b>5. Rental/Leasing</b>	\$8,000	\$2,400	\$10,400
<b>6. Utilities</b>	\$0	\$360	\$360
<b>7. Other (Indirect Costs)</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Budget period totals</b>	\$75,000	\$31,460	\$106,460

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities  
Executive Committee  
Review of Proposed Activities and Budget**

**ITEM: D**

**Date:** 08/2/2017

**Grantee:** Texas Advocates

**Year:** 3 of 3

**Project Title:** Self-Advocate Grassroots Community Organizing

**Project Location:** Austin

**Website:** None

**TCDD RFP Intent**

The intent of the Self-Advocate Grassroots Community Organizing RFP is for one group of self-advocates to work with others to make changes so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are included in their community. TCDD is awarding this grant to support self-advocates with intellectual and developmental disabilities to show others how they can build community capacity and improve system supports.

**Authorized Funding:** TCDD has approved up to \$100,000 for up to three years. The final budget period is 10 months with up to \$83,333.

**Expected Results:** TCDD expects that this project will help self-advocates with disabilities:

1. Learn advanced leadership skills;
2. Work together with a trained community organizer and other experts to identify and change a program, policy or practice so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are included in their community; and
3. Keep working together to make the community better after this project is over.

**Project Goals and Objectives for Year 1**

**Goal:** Texas Advocates will speak out for ourselves and organize a powerful group of self-advocates in Greater Austin to create change in their community at their direction, so people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are included in their community.

**Objectives:**

1. Texas Advocates will recruit and engage self-advocates to participate in at least 40 individual one-on-one meetings to determine their interests and invite them to join the self-advocacy community organizing group;

2. Texas Advocates will invite self-advocates and conduct one initial large community organizing meeting to organize the self-advocate group, select leaders and identify issues the self-advocates want to learn about;
3. Texas Advocates will support the group to conduct monthly meetings to provide training and expert advice at the direction of the group on topics such as community organizing, developing leaders, building relationships, how to run a meeting, getting people involved, how to create change, negotiation and disability and community issues;
4. Texas Advocates will support the group to use a proven method of strategic planning (PATH/Midwest Academy Strategies) to identify and select the group's short, intermediate, and long term goals and develop a plan to reach their goals.

**Accomplishments per Goal:** Texas Advocates identified, recruited, and engaged over 50 self-advocates in the Austin Area to participate in the Self Advocate Community Organizing Group. The grant reached out to many local organizations and presented to groups such as Austin Community College Skills, Training, and Education for Personal Success (STEPS), the Austin Resource Center for Independent Living, The Mary Lee Foundation, The Arc of the Capitol Area, and Austin Advocates. Staff conducted 95 interviews of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to collect feedback on their top concerns and wants for their community. During the 85th session, advocates from the project acted as ambassadors to visiting advocates across Texas. The Greater Austin advocates hosted over 100 individual advocates and their support people from around the state. Advocates showed visitors around the capitol and assisted with educating legislators on their top needs. Advocates were most interested in ending the state subsidization of sub-minimum wage via a bill HB 2409, which gained great bi-partisan support and made it over to the Senate, but did not move through. Texas Advocates also partnered with the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities and the Arc of Texas to create a short movie to explain some of the advocates' needs in the community.

### **Project Goals and Objectives for Year 3**

**Goal:** Same as above.

#### **Objectives:**

1. Texas Advocates will continue to recruit, engage, and support self-advocates and their allies to organize in their own communities;
2. Texas Advocates will continue to assist the self-advocate community organizing group to develop, update, implement, and evaluate their strategic plan;
3. Texas Advocates will support the local self-advocates organizing group to conduct monthly meetings to provide training, identify and learn about the issues, and organize to create systems change in local and state issues, including collaboration with self-advocate groups across the state; and

4. Build the organizational infrastructure to ensure sustainability and long-term community organizing activities for self-advocates.

### Council Considerations

**Grant Management Considerations:** No concerns; Risk Assessment: Considerable. Short final budget period (10 months).

**Staff Recommendation:** TCDD staff recommends continued funding for this project..

### Continuation Budget Detail Summary

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Expended Total Amounts
<b>Expended Year 1</b> (Consultant: \$48,634)	\$100,000/\$100,000	\$33,691/\$32,622	\$133,691/\$132,622
<b>Expended Year 2</b> (Consultant: \$5,880) (9 months)	\$100,000/\$69,069	\$33,560/\$27,775	\$133,560/\$96,844

### Amounts Requested for Year Three Budget (10 months)

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
<b>1. Personnel Services</b>	\$67,987	\$0	\$67,987
<b>2. Travel</b>	\$4,734	\$0	\$4,734
<b>3. Purchased Services</b> (\$4,000 consultants)	\$6,716	\$10,279	\$16,995
<b>4. Property/Materials</b>	\$1,896	\$0	\$1,896
<b>5. Rental/Leasing</b>	\$0	\$17,500	\$17,500
<b>6. Utilities</b>	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
<b>7. Other (Indirect Costs)</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Budget period totals</b>	\$83,333	\$27,779	\$111,112

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities  
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**ITEM: E**

**Date:** 8/2/17

**Grantee:** EveryChild, Inc

**Year:** 2 of 2

**Project Title:** TCDD Policy Fellows

**Project Location:** Statewide

**Website:** [www.everychildtexas.org](http://www.everychildtexas.org)

**TCDD RFP Intent**

The intent of this project is to increase the number of policy professionals in Texas who have the skills, knowledge and experience to engage in policy activities so that people with developmental disabilities have greater control over their own lives.

**Authorized Funding:** TCDD has approved up to \$67,500 for up to 2 years.

**Expected Results:** The DD Fellows will be employed in positions that allow them to work on public policy that addresses issues important to individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Project Goals and Objectives for Year 1**

**Goal:** The goal is to increase the number of policy professionals with the skills, knowledge and experience to engage in policy activities to empower children and youth with developmental disabilities and their families to get the supports needed to live a full and meaningful family life.

**Accomplishments per Goal:** Texas SILC recruited 36 Consumer Advocates in Transportation (CATs). Member Daniel Curtis facilitated a volunteer ridesharing program to assist his wheelchair rugby teammates in attending practices, games, and social events. The organization developed a pre- and post-survey as well as a Needs Assessment. Texas SILC received consulting services from Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) on the three documents. Texas SILC has begun to collect and organize transportation resource information in an accessible format via the organization's website. Transportation Works newsletters have been published to provide the latest transportation and mobility news to the Independent Living Community. The project also launched a website. The first accessible transportation summit was held March 1-2, 2017 in Austin, for which 151 individuals registered. Of those, over half were Texans with disabilities. Contributors

included Disability Rights Texas, Arc of Texas, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Texans with disabilities, and family members. Survey and needs assessment data was collected and is being analyzed.

## **Project Goals and Objectives for Year 2**

**Goal:** Same as above.

**Objectives:** Support the DD Policy Fellow and provide them with training and mentoring to develop a deep understanding of policy and the skills, knowledge and experience they need to effectively engage in public policy issues related to services and developmental disabilities; support the Fellow to understand different approaches to addressing policy issues, including agency and legislative actions and organizational practices, to research and identify core areas of public policy focus and to engage in advocacy on specific policy recommendations; work with EveryChild to educate families of children with developmental disabilities, community organizations, agencies, providers and policy makers on the Fellow's core area of public policy so that families are empowered to get the supports needed for their children to live a full and meaningful family life; and, will evaluate the project's activities and outcomes and provide appropriate project management and oversight while mentoring the Policy Fellow on project leadership and evaluation.

## **Council Considerations**

**Grant Management Considerations:** No concerns; moderate risk monitoring (award within awards).

**Staff Recommendation:** TCDD staff recommends the Council to consider continued funding.

## **Continuation Budget Detail Summary**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Federal Amount Expended</b>	<b>Match Amount Expended</b>	<b>Expended Total Amounts</b>
<b>Expended Year 1</b> (7 months) (Consultant: \$0)	\$67,500/\$31,547	\$22,592/\$10,203	\$90,092/\$41,750

### Amounts Requested for Year 3 Budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
<b>1. Personnel Services</b>	\$66,762	\$0	\$66,762
<b>2. Travel</b>	\$738	\$1,711	\$2,449
<b>3. Purchased Services</b> (\$18,242 consultants)	\$0	\$20,881	\$20,881
<b>4. Property/Materials</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>5. Rental/Leasing</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>6. Utilities</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>7. Other (Indirect Costs)</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Budget period totals</b>	\$67,500	\$22,592	\$90,092

**Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities  
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**ITEM: F**

**Date:** 08/2/2017

**Grantee:** Volar Center for Independent Living

**Year:** 4 of 5

**Project Title:** Building Community Capacity through Collaboration

**Project Location:** El Paso, TX

**Website:** volarcil.org

**TCDD RFP Intent**

The intent of the Building Community Capacity through Collaboration request for proposals was to establish and/or strengthen a network of appropriately diverse organizations to develop a strategic plan to build the capacity of that community to provide community-based services that will decrease the need for individuals with developmental disabilities to be served in an institution and to implement that plan.

**Authorized Funding:** TCDD has approved up to \$150,000 for up to five years.

**Expected Results:** The Upper Rio Grande Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Community Support Network will identify, enhance, and expand community supports for people with disabilities in order to prevent and reduce admissions of people with developmental disabilities to institutions.

**Project Goals and Objectives for Year 1–3**

**Goal:** To prevent and reduce admissions of people with developmental disabilities to State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs) or other institutionalized settings by strengthening the capacity of community supports and developing additional resources.

**Year 1:** The network includes representation from 55 agencies and organizations, who have implemented five approved initiatives to provide a variety of services including:

1. emergency respite,
2. supported employment,
3. transition planning,
4. youth leadership, and
5. post-secondary education.



The grantee has received 32 referrals for transition planning initiative and 21 families received support. One student was in the process of being admitted to a SSLC and received support with Medicaid waivers, social security and guardianship intervention. Under the post-secondary initiative, 18 students were referred and 6 students selected to participate in the first cohort of the 2015 fall semester at El Paso Community College (EPCC). The Youth Leadership Development (YLD) Assistant provided leadership and advocacy training to 30 young people with disabilities. Some of those students met with legislators on Capital Day in Austin. The project also provided 391 hours of emergency respite assistance.

**Year 2:** The network is comprised of 81 partners from public and private organizations, individuals, and family members, which implemented five approved initiatives to provide a variety of services including:

1. behavioral support,
2. supported employment,
3. transition planning,
4. youth leadership development, and
5. post-secondary education.

Six students that enrolled in the first cohort of post-secondary education resulted in enrollment in the Machinist Certificate program, Information Technology in Business program, Office Assistant program and in the Travel Counselor/Airline Reservations certificate program. These students received educational coach support and specialized support services to address their individual academic and personal needs. For example, one student experienced a crisis that involved the El Paso Police Department. The educational coach provided the student with the necessary services and supports to deal with the issues that were creating the crisis situation. For the 2016-2017 academic year, seven students were selected to participate in the second cohort of the fall semester. Since the beginning of the project, 328 people attended presentations provided by the Youth Development Coordinator which provided information on adult and community services, leadership, advocacy, self-determination, career and employment, and transition planning to include postsecondary goals and resources. Under the I/DD transition planning initiative which provides comprehensive/interagency linkage, transition planning and family support, the initiative has received 40 referrals. Seven did not qualify and 33 new families are being served. One 18-year-old individual who had no services and prior medical history is now enrolled in high school, linked to a primary doctor, receives speech, occupational and physical therapies, receives Medicaid and is enrolled on the interest list of the Medicaid waiver programs and DARS. The behavioral support initiative had 116 participants attend two seminars geared to understanding children's behavior. Thirty students are being served under the leadership development program.

**Year 3:** The network is comprised of 45 partners from various public and private organizations, family members, care providers, and individuals with disabilities. The Arc of El Paso, El Paso Community College (EPCC), and Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center signed a memorandum of understanding with Volar to provide the same services as in the previous years work plan. The following outcomes were part of the transitional and behavioral planning component of the project:

1. 4 clients were assisted in signing up for Medicaid Waiver interest lists;
2. 4 clients were referred to the Social Security Office to apply for benefits,
3. 2 clients were referred to speech therapy,
4. 2 clients started the guardianship process,
5. 1 client registered with Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and
6. 2 clients were referred to occupational therapy.

Project Higher students and staff attended and presented at the Ability Awareness Week ceremonies and resource fair at the University of Texas at El Paso, October 3-7, 2016. Project Higher was recognized by the Texas Workforce Solutions VR Program for its efforts and outstanding business practices in preparing people with disabilities for work. A total of 13 students from cohorts 1 and 2 are enrolled in the fall semester at EPCC and 2 were awarded scholarships for the 2016-17 academic year.

## **Project Goals and Objectives for Year 4**

**Goal:** Same as above.

### **Objectives:**

1. Project HIGHER staff will continue to assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in El Paso County to complete a level-one certificate program at EPCC and find employment in their area of study;
2. The Youth Leadership Development Program will serve 30 young people with disabilities who are enrolled in high school or attending college to provide them with the advocacy and leadership skills to participate in post-secondary education and/or employment, and participate in the community;
3. The IDD Institute's goal is to implement best practices, improve awareness and advocate for individual rights of persons with IDD; offer high-quality provider/caregiver training intended to encourage a thorough understanding of topics that will promote self-sufficiency and self-determination for individuals with IDD; and to support the reduction in admissions to the SSLC and increased integration within the community;
4. To assist families and young adults that have an IDD and a co-occurring mental health diagnosis with a comprehensive person-centered transition plan;

5. Will mentor parents that have received transition services since the IDD Transitional Planning Initiative first started in 2014. The preferred outcome will be that these parents will help other parents resolve issues related to transition; and
6. A special emphasis will be made this year to reach out to lead transition specialists in the school districts to give them resources that they can share with the students they work with, so that they are better equipped to develop appropriate school transition plans.

## Council Considerations

**Grant Management Considerations:** The grantee reports project activities and outcomes that are consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in the RFP. However, the grantee has had numerous financial reporting issues related to documentation, invoicing, and accounting that have required an excessive amount of technical assistance and time to resolve. The findings from the November 2016 on-site elevated the grant risk status which required to grantee to submit RARs on a monthly basis with supporting documentation for each RAR. During the second and third quarter, documentation was either not submitted or submitted incorrectly that delayed payment of RARs by six months. As a result, the grantee received a letter in April 2017 advising that circumstances existed that could result in suspension of the grant. With extensive grant management support, the grantee ultimately addressed all concerns in the letter and suspension was not enacted. With a ongoing technical assistance from staff to the grant financial authority, the grantee's RARs have ultimately been approved and paid. However, payments to date have been delayed due to required mathematical revisions and appropriate documentation.

**Staff Recommendation:** With continued funding, keep high risk status that includes monthly RAR and annual on-site reviews. Continue to work with grantee on meeting financial reporting requirements. Continue to promote adherence to designated timelines for financial documents and reporting.

## Continuation Budget Detail Summary

Year	Federal Amount Expended	Match Amount Expended	Expended Total Amounts
<b>Expended Year 1</b> (Consultant: \$82,915)	\$125,000/\$125,000	\$14,483/\$25,408	\$139,483/\$150,408
<b>Expended Year 2</b> (Consultant: \$103,274)	\$150,000/\$150,000	\$18,174/\$26,515	\$168,174/\$176,515
<b>Expended Year 3</b> (7 months) (Consultant: \$105,025)	\$150,000/\$80,912	\$16,858/\$12,286	\$166,858/\$93,198

## Amounts Requested for Year Four Budget

Expense Item	Federal Amount Requested	Match Amount Requested	Total Amount Requested
<b>1. Personnel Services</b>	\$45,704	\$0	\$45,704
<b>2. Travel</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>3. Purchased Services</b> (\$101,382 consultants)	\$101,382	\$16,781	\$118,163
<b>4. Property/Materials</b>	\$1,378	\$0	\$1,378
<b>5. Rental/Leasing</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>6. Utilities</b>	\$1,536	\$0	\$1,536
<b>7. Other (Indirect Costs)</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Budget period totals</b>	\$150,000	\$16,781	\$166,781